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MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
May 14, 1996

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, May 14, 1996, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present were Elaine Carter, Ron Cartlidge, Rosemary Castleberry, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Phil Friday, Hermelinda Zamarripa, Mary K. Isaacs and Rocky Medrano.

Staff members present: Jesus M. Olivares, Stuart Strong, Peter Marsh, Mary Ybarbo, Warren Struss, Junie Plummer and Kendall Moss.

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Phil Friday, Chair.

B. CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION

Mike Workman, associated with Save Austin Neighborhoods Environment (SANE), urged board members to vote in the June 1st runoff elections.

C. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Colorado River Park Planning Committee Report

Margaret Gomez, Travis County Commissioner of Precinct 4 and member of the Colorado River Park Planning Committee, gave a final report on committee goals to the board. The committee believes the City and supporting organizations will be able to begin raising money for the development of the Colorado River Park by using the park development plan as presented in a written report. The report listed the following specific recommendations which the Planning Committee hopes the Parks Board will approve: (1) That the Montopolis Sports Complex be completed as soon as possible including the resolution of funding and construction of Grove Blvd.; (2) That the Colorado River Park Trail be completed as soon as possible; (3) That PARD apply for a Texas Parks and Wildlife Local Parks Fund Grant to fund as much of the neighborhood park and canoe launch as possible; (4) That PARD work with the Austin Parks Foundation to develop a private funding strategy as soon as possible; (5) That PARD support the inclusion of at least \$10 million in general obligation bonds for the Colorado River Park in the next bond proposal that is put to a vote; and (6) That the Parks Board provide ongoing support for the funding and development of the park.

Ted Siff, Texas Field Office Director for The Trust for Public Land spoke in support of the recommendations of the Colorado River Park Task Force. He also urged the department to work with the Austin Parks Foundation to develop private funding strategies.

Ron Cartlidge made a motion that the Board support the Colorado River Park Planning Committee's recommendations as listed on page 7 of the report. Mary K. Issacs added an amendment that the grant mentioned in item 3 of the report (Texas Parks & Wildlife Local Parks Fund Grant) be pursued in the next funding cycle. Rosemary Castleberry seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous to support (8-0) Medrano, Zamarripa, Cartlidge, Cruz-Torres, Castleberry, Isaacs, Carter, Friday.

#### Park Police Coverage - End of School Year

Warren Struss, Park Police Administrator, has been working with the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association and Austin Police Dept. (APD) to cover the end of school activities at Bartholomew Pool and Park on Tuesday, May 21, 1996. There were three things agreed to: the park would be alcohol free, there would be a war waged against graffiti and that the Park Police will be a continued presence there and in other areas of the city. The first two suggestions have been addressed and the presence of the park police will be known by the end of the last school day. Park Police will work with Aquatics Division about putting extra life guards on staff for that day.

### **D. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### U.S. Corps of Engineers Study of Lake Travis

Peter Marsh, Engineering Associate with PARD, told the Board the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a study of Lake Travis in March 1996. LCRA had requested this study because of the congestion problems on the lake. The plan being proposed would divide the length of the lake into compartments. Each compartment would have a category ranging from Class I which is a very congested area with lots of activity to Class IV which is very low use areas. In the report is a list of the Corps' suggested lake-wide management actions ranging from prohibiting large power boats (cigarette boats) to monitoring boat traffic density. Staff will be kept informed by both LCRA and the Corps of Engineers of latest management actions to be implemented.

#### Playscape Update

Kendall Moss, Deputy Director, gave a summary of the consultant's report regarding the lead based paint found on park playscapes. There was no contaminated soil found on any playground. Lead levels of 0.5% were found on 30 playscapes. Immediate steps are to post warning signs in the parks. A press conference was held last Friday to let public know findings of the Raba-Kistner-Brytest Consultant study and inform them of Department's plan. Austin American Statesman has an open line still available. Dept. plan is in two phases: the first phase will address those pieces of equipment with 0.5% and up. Staff currently is applying a special encapsulating coating to those pieces identified as containing lead-based paint. Civitan playground will have to be replaced. The Lion water fountain at Zilker will be removed. A final report will be given to city



council in the near future. Timeline and cost estimates are forthcoming. Costs for abatement will be coming from Public Works Lead Abatement Fund and not PARD budget.

Elaine Carter requested a copy of the consultant report. A private contractor will be hired to remove equipment and will be responsible for disposal of lead paint.

#### Balcones Canyonlands Preserves Land Purchases

Junie Plummer, Property Agent with the Public Works Department, reported on the Council Actions of April 25, 1996 wherein land acquisitions were made on the Balcones Canyonland Wilderness Park. The first acquisition will be 45 acres, bringing the total wilderness park to 1,000 acres. The cost will be \$1,780,000 and will be the exact appraised value of the land.

The second land acquisition is for the Balcones Canyonland Preserve and is called Long Canyon. It is a total of 450 acres and the City purchases 292 acres with the Nature Conservancy purchasing the rest. This tract connects with Cold Water Canyon.

Ms. Plummer had a large map in various colors which outlined the numerous land acquisitions the City has made.

#### **E. ITEMS FOR ACTION**

##### **ITEMS FOR CONSENT**

Construction of single slip boat dock at 12015 Selma Hughes Park Rd. File # SP-96-0109DS

Construction of a single slip boat dock at 1804 S. Lakeshore Drive. File # SP-96-0138DS

Ron Cartlidge, Navigation Committee Chair, moved to allow construction of two (2) single slip boat docks. One is located at 12015 Selma Hughes Park Rd and the other located at 1804 S. Lakeshore Drive. The motion includes the staff recommendation that the boat dock on 12015 Selma Hughes Park Road be constructed with a 10' set back which is not shown on the site plans. The vote was 8-0 to accept. (Carter, Cartlidge, Castleberry, Cruz-Torres, Medrano, Friday, Zamarripa, Isaacs)

Walnut Creek Greenbelt Drainage License Agreement - Austin Diagnostic Clinic

Peter Marsh, PARD staff, informed the board that a request has been received for license agreements through parkland known as Walnut Creek Greenbelt. In a detailed memo to the Board an outline was given of just what would comprise the agreement in constructing a stormwater line on the greenbelt. Mary K. Isaacs, Land and Facilities Chair, said her committee approved the report. Phil Friday made a motion to approve the agreement. The vote was 8-0 to approve (Carter, Cartlidge, Castleberry, Cruz-Torres, Medrano, Friday, Zamarripa, Isaacs).

## ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

### Greater East Austin Youth League Batting Cage

Stuart Strong, Division Manager for Planning and Design, informed the Board the Greater East Austin Youth League (GEAYL) proposes to install a new 3600 square foot metal covered structure next to the existing batting cage. Funding is through the Electric Department. GEAYL would like the Parks Board recommendation for this installation prior to submittal of the plans for permitting and compliance with the Land Development Code. Phil Friday made a motion to accept. The vote was 8-0 in favor (Carter, Cartlidge, Castleberry, Cruz-Torres, Medrano, Friday, Zamarripa, Isaacs)

### Pease Park Renovations Plans (Moody Foundation Grant)

Stuart Strong informed the Board that the Moody Foundation had donated \$200,000 for the renovation project at Pease Park. The City Council will be asked at the May 16th meeting to appropriate these funds into the budget so that the department can spend the funds. Rosemary Castleberry made a motion to recommend to the Council that they appropriate the funds for the renovation of Pease Park. Seconded by Ron Cartlidge. The vote was 8-0 to appropriate funds (Carter, Cartlidge, Castleberry, Cruz-Torres, Medrano, Friday, Zamarripa, Isaacs).

### Parkland Maintenance Task Force Report

Rosemary Castleberry submitted a detailed copy of Report & Recommendations of the Parks Maintenance Task Force to each member. This report covers, among other subjects, the scope of the problems, recommendations for funding future maintenance, entrepreneurial management and long-term solutions. There was discussion among Board Members about endorsing the efforts of the task force, but because the majority did not have time to fully read the report, a suggestion to defer endorsement was delayed until the next board meeting of May 28, 1996. Chair Friday invited all members to the next Parkland Maintenance Task Force meeting of May 15, 1996.

### Parkland Dedication Ordinance

Mary K. Isaacs reported that a formal report has yet to be formulated. Butch Smith, PARD Planner, will give a committee report at next Monday's lunch meeting.

## F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no other committee reports given.

## G. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Rocky Medrano reported his group is preparing a request to name a PARD facility after A. B. Cantu.

Ron Cartlidge would like a report on Zilker Clubhouse at the next board meeting.

#### H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mary K. Isaacs noted that on page 40 of the minutes, the sentence should read Col. Leroy Swift had retired as Park Police Administrator, instead of resigned. Noted.

Rosemary Castleberry motioned to accept the minutes of April 23, 1996 with correction and minutes of April 30, 1996 as written. Seconded by Cruz-Torres. Vote was 8-0 to accept (Isaacs, Medrano, Carter, Cartlidge, Friday, Cruz-Torres, Castleberry).

#### I. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

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